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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Sharon B. PAYTON et al

Art Unit: 1761

Serial No.: 09/842,195

Examiner: C. Paden

Filed: April 26, 2001

For: pH CONTROL OF SAUCES USED ON ACIDIFIED PASTA OR RICE

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement of November 27, 2002, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-3 and 20, drawn to a "shelf stable pasta or rice meal with sauce", with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that both Groups I and II can be searched without undue burden because the claims identified as Group II overlap significantly with the subject matter of Group I.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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TPP/EPR
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Date: Dec 18, 2002